

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 SSC-01
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R 151305Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9122
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, BC, US

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: A. GABORONE 2282 B. STATE 298879 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA RECEIVED ME DECEMBER 14 FOR
PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AS SCHEDULED. AT DOCTOR S ORDERS,
CEREMONY WAS SIMPLIFIED TO MINIMIZE DEMANDS ON THE PRESIDENT,
ESPECIALLY PHYSICAL MOVEMENT, E.G. AMBASSADOR S WIFE NOT INVOLVED
(PREVIOUS CEREMONIES INCLUDED TEA WITH LADY KHAMA). HOWEVER,
FOLLOWING CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, PRESIDENT TOOK INITIATIVE IN
PROVIDING FIFTEEN-MINUTE REVIEW OF WHAT HE TERMED SEVERAL CRITICAL
CONCERNS (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. TEXT OF MY REMARKS WAS AS CONTAINED REF B.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT KHAMA S REPLY:

QTE: IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOU TO BOTSWANA AND
ACCEPT THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY WHICH PRESIDENT FORD ACCREDITS
YOU AS HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.
I ALSO WISH TO ACCEPT THE LETTERS OF RECALL OF YOUR PREDECESSOR
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WHO SERVED YOUR COUNTRY WITH DEDICATION DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE

HERE. WE VALUE VERY HIGHLY THE WARM AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

QTE: AS YOU KNOW, BOTSWANA IS SURROUNDED BY POTENTIALLY HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE RACIST SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENTS IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE DENIED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR COLOR. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY WISH, AND I KNOW IT IS ALSO THE WISH OF THE UNITED STATES, TO SEE THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLVED PEACEFULLY AND PEACE AND HARMONY RESTORED AMONGST THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PART OF THE S WORLD. WE IN BOTSWANA HAVE TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE TO OUR MINORITY-RULED NEIGHBORS THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES CAN LIVE TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY IN SPITE OF THEIR RACIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

QTE AS A YOUNG AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY WE READILY WELCOME ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. AND IN THIS FIELD I NOTE WITH GREAT APPRECIATION THE AID WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN MY COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA ROAD WHICH WILL GIVE BOTSWANA DIRECT ACCESS TO THE FREE WORLD AND THUS REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON OUR HOSTILE NEIGHBORS.

QTE I HAVE VERY HAPPY MEMORIES OF MY VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND I SHALL ALWAYS WELCOME ANY OPPORTUNITY TO RECIPROCATATE THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL WHICH WERE SO SINCERELY EXPRESSED TO ME DURING MY MEMORABLE STAY IN THE UNITED STATES.

QTE I WISH, ONCE AGAIN, TO WELCOME YOU TO BOTSWANA, AND TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE SHALL ALWAYS BE MORE THAN WILLING TO GIVE YOU EVERY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR WORK DURING YOUR TOUR OF DUTY IN OUR COUNTRY UNQTE.

4. GOB GAVE BOTH TEXTS TO PRESS AND ARE BASIS OF FRONTAGE ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 15 GABORONE DAILY NEWS . HENCE THIS UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.
NORLAND

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NNN

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